

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 11-23 and 25-26 are pending in the application, with claims 11 and 18 being the independent claims. Claim 24 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 11 is sought to be amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, as discussed below. Claims 11, 15, 18 and 25 are also sought to be amended for further clarification. Support for the amendments to claims 18 and 25 can be found, for example, on page 151, lines 5-10, page 152, lines 7-12, and discussion of FIG. 77 in the specification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action states on page 2 that claim 11 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,759,904 B2. In response to this rejection, Applicant has filed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the double patenting rejection of claim 11 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On pages 2-3, the Office Action states that claims 11, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. With regard to claim 11, the

Examiner suggested amending "the circuit output," to read --the circuit outputs,--. Applicant has amended claim 11 accordingly. Claim 25 has been amended for further clarification, and claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, rendering the rejection of claim 24 now moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 11, 24, and 25 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action states on page 3 that claims 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,371,475 to Brown. Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this rejection.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the features of:

generating a voltage control signal based on *an amplitude of the input signal voltage*; and
adjusting a transconductance of the variable gain amplifier *in response to the voltage control signal* so as to flatten a transconductance transfer characteristic of the variable gain amplifier.

Brown does not teach or suggest one or more of these features, nor does the Office Action allege this. For example, Brown does not teach or suggest that the control terminal 290 in FIGs. (9, 10, 12) receives *a voltage control signal based on an amplitude of the input signal voltage*, as recited in Applicant's claim 18. Nor does Brown mention *flattening a transconductance transfer characteristic of the variable gain amplifier in response to the voltage control signal*, as recited in claim 18. For at least these reasons, claim 18 and the claims that depend therefrom (claims 19-23 and 25-26) are believed to be allowable. Claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein,

rendering the rejection of claim 24 now moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 18-26 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement Filed August 31, 2004

Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning the Form PTO-1449 that was submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement on August 31, 2004. However, it was noted that documents AA4-AG4 on page 4 of the Form PTO-1449 were not initialed by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial and return a copy of page 4 of the PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the cited documents have been considered. A copy of page 4 of the Form PTO-1449 is included herein for the Examiner's convenience.

Conclusion

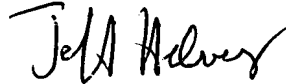
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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